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Curran, Edward: Humanities Chairman  
Nomination Hearing (1985)

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1985

# Curran, Edward: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1985): Correspondence 17

Robert L. Smith

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pro. Curran

COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN  
PRIVATE EDUCATION

1625 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

October 8, 1985

(202) 659-0016  
Robert L. Smith  
Executive Director

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Labor and Human  
Resources  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RECEIVED  
OCT 15 1985  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Senator Hatch:

I am writing as Executive Director of the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) and as a friend of nearly 15 years of Ed Curran to express my support for his nomination as Director of the National Endowment for the Humanities. This letter is a personal one and does not necessarily reflect the views of CAPE's member organizations.

On the basis of my knowledge of Ed and conversations we have had since he's been in government and very recently, I can attest to several matters which are on the minds of members of your Committee:

1. Ed is not going to weaken NEH. He's a strong believer in its role and purposes. He will continue, among other things, the focus NEH has put in recent years on strengthening humanities education in public and private schools.
2. Ed is not a "right-wing nut". Nor is he a close-minded ideologue. His conservatism is thoughtful and balanced and he eschews political extremes. His is a proper and reasonable nomination by this Administration and a very good one in terms of the future of NEH.
3. Ed is a strong supporter of racial integration. It's inconceivable that he could be perceived as other than staunch on civil rights as a matter of personal and national priority.
4. That Ed's background is in education at the pre-college level and does not include credentials in scholarly research is not in any way a barrier to his effectively

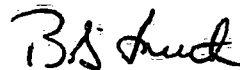
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concerning himself with the broad concerns of the Endowment. The humanities are not and were never intended to be the possession of scholars. They are for the intellectual and moral refreshment of all of us. It is a phenomenon of some years past and still confined to only a few, to conceive that a position which touches scholarship must be held by a scholar. How would colleges, universities, schools, foundations and other of our major cultural institutions now find many of their ablest leaders if not from outside the strict confines of academe? And let's remember that the crowning period of the humanistic tradition, the 17th century, was dominated, not by scholars, but by well-read, practical generalists.

In summary, this is a fine appointment and neither the Endowment nor the humanities will be in danger as a result of your confirming Ed Curran.

With thanks for your thoughtful consideration of this letter,

Yours sincerely,



Robert L. Smith  
Executive Director

cc: Committee on Labor and Human Resources